

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An electrical connector to interpose between opposing surfaces of a first electrical device having a plurality of conductive pads and a second electrical device having a plurality of conductive pads to electrically connect each pad on the surface of said first electrical device with a respective pad on the surface of said second electrical device, the electrical connector comprising;

a housing carrying a plurality of conductive elements, each conductive element including a first contact region for engagement with a conductive pad of the surface of said first electrical device and a second contact region for engagement with a conductive pad of the surface of said second electrical device, said conductive elements carried by said housing to present at least said first contact region for compressive engagement with the surface of said first electrical device,

said housing presenting a latching means to engage with said first electrical device to retain said first electrical device with said housing in a direction which extends parallel to the direction of compressive engagement to thereby hold said plurality of conductive pads of said first electrical device in physical contact with respective said first contact regions of said conductive elements.

2. (Original) An electrical connector as claimed in claim 1 wherein said latching means is a snap fit latching means.

3. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector as claimed in claims 1 or 2 wherein said latching means is an umbrella like expansion snap fit latching means.

4. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector as claimed in ~~any one of the~~ preceding claims 1 wherein said latching means includes at least one pair of latching regions provided by at least one leg projecting from said housing, at least on latching region including an edge or surface the normal to which extends in a direction parallel to the direction of compressive engagement, the edge or surface engagable to a complementary edge or surface of said first electrical device the normal to which extends in a direction opposite to said first mentioned normal to thereby retain said first electrical device with said housing

wherein each latching region is deflectable towards each other in a resilient manner and along a path which extends in a direction lateral to the direction of compressive engagement and thereby allows a snap-fit engagement with said first electrical device to occur.

5. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector as claimed in ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ wherein said latching means includes at least one pair of latching regions provided by at least one leg projecting from said housing, at least on latching region including an edge or surface the normal to which extends in a direction parallel to the direction of compressive engagement, the edge or surface engagable to a complementary edge or surface of said first electrical device the normal to which extends in a direction opposite to said first mentioned normal to thereby retain said first electrical device with said housing wherein each latching region is deflectable away from each other in a resilient manner and along a path which extends in a

direction lateral to the direction of compressive engagement and thereby allows a snap-fit engagement with said first electrical device to occur.

6. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector as claimed in claims 4 ~~or 5~~ wherein said latching regions are provided in the form of a lip of said at least one leg.

7. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 4 ~~to 6~~ wherein latching regions is provided by a respective said leg.

8. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 4 ~~to 7~~ wherein at least one pair of legs are provided each leg including one latching region.

9. (Original) An electrical connector as claimed in claim 8, wherein each leg of said pair is resiliently biased towards a condition wherein said pair of legs are mutually cooperative to encourage said edge or surface of each latching region to remain in contact with a respective complementary edge or surface of said first electrical device.

10. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 6 ~~to 9~~ wherein said lip is defined by the profile of said leg.

11. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 3 to 10 wherein said first electrical device with which said electrical connector is to engage, is a printed circuit board.

12. (Original) An electrical connector as claimed in claim 11 wherein said latching means extends from said housing to pass through an opening in said printed circuit board and wherein said latching means presents a lip to engage with the major surface of said printed circuit board opposite to said first mentioned surface.

13. (Original) An electrical connector as claimed in claim 12 wherein said lip is positioned relative to said housing so that when said printed circuit board is held to said housing by said latching means said printed circuit board is pressed against said first contact regions with a force which is within the specifications for desired characteristic of physical contact.

14. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 to 13 wherein said housing is of a generally elongate body which includes an upper surface and an opposite facing lower surface both substantially parallel to the elongate direction of said body and wherein said latching means extends from said housing at the upper surface.

15. (Original) An electrical assembly including an electrical connector interposing between opposing surfaces of a first electrical device having a plurality of conductive

pads and a second electrical device having a plurality of conductive pads, electrically connecting each pad on the surface of said first electrical device with a respective pad on the surface of said second electrical device, wherein the electrical connector comprises;

a housing carrying a plurality of conductive elements, each conductive element including a first contact region engaged with a conductive pad of the surface of said first electrical device and a second contact region engaged with a conductive pad of the surface of said second electrical device, said conductive elements carried by said housing to present at least said first contact region in a compressive engagement with the surface of said first electrical device,

said housing presenting a latching means engaged with said first electrical device to retain said first electrical device with said housing at least in a direction which extends parallel to the direction of compressive engagement to thereby hold said plurality of conductive pads of said first electrical device in physical contact with respective said first contact regions of said conductive elements.

16. (Original) An electrical assembly as claimed in claim 15 wherein said latching means is a snap fit latching means.

17. (Currently Amended) An electrical assembly as claimed in claims 15 or 16 wherein said latching means is an umbrella like expansion snap fit latching means.

18. (Currently Amended) An electrical assembly as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 15 to ~~17~~ wherein said latching means includes at least one pair of latching regions provided by at least one leg projecting from said housing, at least on latching region including an edge or surface the normal to which extends in a direction parallel to the direction of compressive engagement, the edge or surface engaged to a complementary edge or surface of said first electrical device the normal to which extends in a direction opposite to said first mentioned normal to thereby retain said first electrical device with said housing

wherein each latching region is deflectable towards each other in a resilient manner and along a path which extends in a direction lateral to the direction of compressive engagement and thereby allows a snap-fit engagement with said first electrical device to occur.

19. (Currently Amended) An electrical assembly as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 15 to ~~17~~ wherein said latching means includes at least one pair of latching regions provided by at least one leg projecting from said housing; at least on latching region including an edge or surface the normal to which extends in a direction parallel to the direction of compressive engagement, the edge or surface engaged to a complementary edge or surface of said first electrical device the normal to which extends in a direction opposite to said first mentioned normal to thereby retain said first electrical device with said housing wherein each latching region is deflectable away from each other in a resilient manner and along a path which extends in a

direction lateral to the direction of compressive engagement and thereby allows a snap-fit engagement with said first electrical device to occur.

20. (Currently Amended) An electrical assembly as claimed in claims 18 ~~or 19~~ wherein said latching regions are provided in the form of a lip of said at least one leg.

21. (Currently Amended) An electrical assembly as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 18 ~~to 20~~ wherein a latching region is provided by a respective said leg.

22. (Currently Amended) An electrical assembly as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 18 ~~to 21~~ wherein at least one pair of legs are provided each leg including one latching region.

23. (Original) An electrical assembly as claimed in claim 22 wherein each leg of said pair is resiliently biased towards a condition wherein said pair of legs are mutually cooperative to encourage said edge or surface of each latching region to remain in contact with a respective complementary edge or surface of said first electrical device.

24. (Currently Amended) An electrical assembly as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 20 ~~to 23~~ wherein said lip is defined by the profile of said leg.

25. (Currently Amended) An electrical assembly as claimed in ~~any one of claims 15 to 24~~ wherein said first electrical device with which said electrical connector is engaged, is a printed circuit board.

26. (Original) An electrical assembly as claimed in claim 25 wherein said latching means extends from said housing and passes through an opening in said printed circuit board and wherein said latching means presents a lip to engage with the major surface of said printed circuit board opposite to said first mentioned surface.

27. (Original) An electrical assembly as claimed in claim 26 wherein, said lip is positioned relative to said housing so that when said printed circuit board is held to said housing by said latching ,means said printed circuit board is pressed against said first contact regions with a force which is within the specifications for desired characteristic of physical contact.

28. (Currently Amended) An electrical assembly as claimed in ~~any one of claims 15 to 27~~ wherein said housing is of a generally elongate body which includes an upper surface and an opposite facing lower surface both substantially parallel to the elongate direction of said body and wherein said latching means extends from said housing at the upper surface.

29. (Original) A connector as claimed in claim 1 wherein the latching means comprises of a leg upstanding from the housing in a direction parallel to the direction of

said compressive engagement and having a section there along which is of an increased width in a direction lateral to said compressive engagement direction which is to engage with an aperture of said first electrical device in an interference fit engagement manner.

30. (Original) A connector as claimed in claim 29 wherein said section is deformable relative to said leg.

31. (Currently Amended) A connector as claimed in claim 29 ~~or 30~~ wherein said section includes a barbed edge which is to pressed into a surface of said first electrical device at said aperture.

32. (Original) An electrical assembly as claimed in claim 15 wherein the latching means comprises of a leg upstanding from the housing in a direction parallel to the direction of said compressive engagement and having a section there along which is of an increased width in a direction lateral to said compressive engagement direction which is engaged at an aperture of said first electrical device in an interference fit engagement manner.

33. (Original) An electrical assembly as claimed in claim 32 wherein said section is deformable relative to said leg.

34. (Currently Amended) An electrical assembly as claimed in claim 32 ~~or 33~~ wherein said section includes a barbed edge which is pressed into a surface of said first electrical device at said aperture.

35. (Currently Amended) An electrical assembly as claimed in claims 32 ~~to 34~~ wherein said section is at a distance along said leg such that it securely engages said first electrical device and simultaneously holds said surface thereof in compressive engagement with the first contact regions of said conductive elements.

36. (Currently Amended) An electrical connector as claimed in ~~any one of~~ claims 1 ~~to 14~~ wherein said latching means is of a sheet metal material and includes a housing located region which is engaged to the housing within a cavity thereof.

37. (Original) An electrical connector as claimed in claim 36 wherein said housing holds two arrays of conductive elements each array extending in a longitudinal direction and disposed along respective sides of said housing, said cavity of said housing retaining said housing located region of latching means extending in a longitudinal direction and intermediate of said two arrays.